



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

## Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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### NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Says Farewell to Four Long-serving Members**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) showed its gratitude to four long-term members leaving the board at its July meeting. Donna Campbell, Heather Cothron, Norman Mulvenon, and Sandy Reagan rotated off the board after approximately 25 years of combined service.



Left to right: Norman Mulvenon, Sandy Reagan, Heather Cothron, Donna Campbell, and Steve McCracken, DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for Environmental Management.

DOE Oak Ridge assistant manager for EM. “Their work has helped our community achieve a level of comfort that the government is carrying out its responsibility. That couldn’t happen without people like these.”

ORSSAB is a federally chartered citizens’ advisory panel that provides advice and recommendations to the Department of Energy Oak Ridge Environmental Management (DOE EM) Program. This program is responsible for cleaning up sections of the Oak Ridge Reservation contaminated from decades of work in nuclear weapons development and energy research.

“These who are leaving the board are the epitome of the type of people I believe have helped communities across the country,” said Steve McCracken,

“They are among the most active members of the board and have made significant contributions,” said Lance Mezga, chair of ORSSAB. “The bar has been raised for those who join the board in the future.”

Campbell leaves with the most time served on the board – 10 years. She was a member of the first chartered board in 1995 and served for two two-year terms. She was reappointed in July 2001 and then served three additional two-year terms. Campbell has been an active member of the Stewardship Committee and was a board secretary.

“The ORSSAB has evolved and changed since its inception,” said Campbell. “It has been a unique opportunity to serve as a charter member and serve 10 of 12 years of the board’s existence.

“I am proud of the tangible accomplishments of the board, the progress made in areas of defining and understanding stewardship, and most importantly, strengthening the mutual respect between the Department of Energy and the community. The board is an organization that enhances communication between DOE and the public and effectively provides a voice in the cleanup decisions on the Oak Ridge Reservation.”

Cothron joined the board in July 2001 and completed three terms. She has been a member of the EM,

Stewardship, and Public Outreach Committees.

“The ORSSAB has been involved in the cleanup projects from initial planning to follow-up verification and monitoring, providing recommendations, assessing progress, and keeping the public informed in a variety of ways,” said Cothron.

“In my opinion, the contributions of our members are immeasurable, adding balance and input to difficult and necessary decisions that will affect our community for generations. I feel privileged to have participated.”

Campbell and Cothron were instrumental in working together to develop the Stewardship Education Resource Kit, a compilation of materials for use in high schools to teach students about stewardship of lands that have been affected by contamination. The kit is designed to educate students about the science, history, and cleanup of contaminated areas around Oak Ridge where work was done in nuclear weapons development and research. The kit explains why long-term stewardship of those areas is important and how it is achieved.

Mulvenon joined the board in January 2002. He served on all committees and was board vice chair when he completed his term. Mulvenon first became involved with the board as a member of the End Use Working Group, which published the ‘Final Report of the Oak Ridge Reservation’ and the Stewardship Working Group, which published the ‘Stakeholder Report on Stewardship’ volumes 1 and 2.

“I’ve been coming to board meetings since 1997, so I think this is a lot of fun,” he said. “I’m tantalized by the idea of taking care of problems from the past.

“We just need more public participation in things like environmental cleanup, and we need to let our opinions be known.”

Mulvenon encouraged new members to the board and reminded the current members to take an active role. “Apply your knowledge to the problems we face. The Oak Ridge Reservation needs to be cleaned up, and we need people who are watching it very carefully while it’s being done.”

Reagan came on the board in November 2004. She was a member of the EM Committee and served as board secretary.

“I wanted to serve on ORSSAB to work closer with the Department of Energy to see how environmental decisions were made with respect to the needs of the community, as well as to offer some of the experience that I have gained as an environmental consultant working with both DOE and the Department of Defense for many years,” said Reagan. “Not only did I develop a better understanding of how environmental decisions are made by DOE and how the general public needs are considered in those decisions, but I was able to contribute through the board in making environmental decision recommendations to DOE.

“The most important things, however, that I am taking with me are the friendships and professional relationships that I can cherish for many years to come. I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve with such prestigious members and to be a part of change for the Oak Ridge Reservation.”

ORSSAB meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge. Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public, and notices are posted on the board’s web site: [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab).

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